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Although these rates apply to a more or less selected group, they are very good indices of the comparative mortality conditions of the general population.

Death rates (annual basis) per 100,000 lives exposed, for principal causes, July and August, 1921, and August and year, 1920.

[Industrial Department, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.]

Cause of death.	Death rate per 100,000 lives exposed.			
	August, 1921.	July, 1921.	August, 1920	Year, 1920.
Total, all causes.....	809.0	768.5	825.5	989.4
Typhoid fever.....	10.3	7.2	8.2	6.7
Measles.....	1.1	2.9	3.2	8.5
Scarlet fever.....	3.7	4.6	3.3	6.0
Whooping cough.....	4.3	3.5	6.7	6.6
Diphtheria.....	14.3	13.0	12.2	22.1
Influenza.....	2.5	2.6	5.9	53.5
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	113.5	106.3	121.2	137.9
Cancer.....	72.3	68.1	68.0	69.8
Meningitis (all forms).....	6.2	5.2	6.2	5.2
Cerebral hemorrhage.....	48.0	51.1	51.5	61.3
Organic diseases of heart.....	100.9	98.8	95.9	117.0
Pneumonia (all forms).....	26.8	28.1	32.0	106.1
Other respiratory diseases.....	9.9	8.8	12.2	18.2
Diarrhea and enteritis.....	31.3	20.7	30.4	15.8
Bright's disease.....	60.7	58.4	61.3	70.8
Puerperal state.....	16.3	16.4	20.2	23.0
Suicides.....	8.0	6.9	6.0	6.1
Homicides.....	6.3	6.2	6.8	5.8
Other external causes (excluding suicides and homicides).....	70.2	75.3	76.9	60.1
Traumatism by automobile.....	13.8	10.4	14.6	11.1
All other causes.....	202.5	184.4	197.4	188.9

ORDINANCE PROHIBITING COMMUNICABLE DISEASE HOSPITALS HELD INVALID.¹

The Supreme Court of California recently declared invalid, and enjoined the enforcement of, an ordinance of East San Diego which prohibited the maintenance within the city limits of any hospital for the treatment of contagious or infectious diseases.

Injunction proceedings were brought against the city by the San Diego Tuberculosis Association, which owned and operated a hospital in the city for the treatment of persons afflicted with tuberculosis. In its opinion the court said:

Two questions are presented: First, is the ordinance invalid? and second, even if it is, can its enforcement by the city officials be enjoined? The answer to both of these questions seems to us plain.

The ordinance can be justified only as an exercise of the city's police power. This power is, of course, very broad, but it is not without limitation. One limitation enforced in numerous cases is that an ordinance purporting to be an exercise of the city's police power "may not be arbitrary or unreasonable. The exercise of the police power can not be made a mere cloak for the arbitrary interference with or suppression of a lawful business." * * *

¹San Diego Tuberculosis Assn. v. City of East San Diego et al., 200 Pac., 393.

Such being the law, was the present ordinance a reasonable one in its essential feature, that of prohibiting within the city any hospital for the treatment of contagious or infectious diseases? Such prohibition is very different from regulation, and can be justified only on the ground that such a hospital, no matter how well conducted, is a menace to the public peace, morals, health, or comfort. That a well-conducted, modern hospital, even one for the treatment of contagious and infectious diseases is not such a menace, but, on the contrary, one of the most beneficent of institutions, needs no argument. There is not the slightest danger of the spread of disease from it, and this is the only possible ground on which objection could be made to it. We have no hesitation in holding an ordinance prohibiting the maintenance anywhere within a city of an institution so necessary in our modern life and so beneficent, to be wholly unreasonable and invalid. * * *

It is evident in the present case that the enforcement of the ordinance would cause substantial and irreparable injury to the plaintiff's property, and that against the threat of its enforcement by the repeated prosecutions which the ordinance permits, the plaintiff has no adequate remedy. The case, therefore, comes within the rule stated in *Abbey Land Co. v. San Mateo*, and upon the facts alleged in the complaint the plaintiff was entitled to have the enforcement of the ordinance enjoined.

DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED OCT. 8, 1921.

Summary of information received by telegraph from industrial insurance companies for week ended Oct. 8, 1921, and corresponding week, 1920. (From the Weekly Health Index, Oct. 11, 1921, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)

	Week ended Oct. 8, 1921.	Corresponding week, 1920.
Policies in force.....	47, 794, 871	44, 692, 241
Number of death claims.....	7, 305	6, 988
Death claims per 1,000 policies in force.....	8.0	8.2